Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
1/23/76

Senator Charles Mathias, Md.
Senate Office Bldg.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mac,

We have been friends long enough for me to feel confient that if I say something pleasing you'll know I'm not putting you one. And, impersonally, the converse.

The importance of your recent political initiatives can not be exaggerated. We all are and will remain in your debt for these, too. Combined with your under-recognized work on authoritarianism (of which it is but an extension), you have addressed one of the most urgent national needs and greatest dangers.

I doubt that with all that requires your attention you can recognize that the work to which I have dedicated myself is a natural part of it. I mean this not in the sense of asking anything of you about it - merely to indicate that I am in a better position than most to appreciate the need and significance and foresight of your efforts. (This is one of the reasons I have longed so for foundation support, so that more could be done with what I have and have done if not that I might be able to do more. The nuts and self-seekers have captured the field and are the naturally allies of to me quite visible disinformation operations.)

My apologies for the typing. The phlebitis lingers and requires that I keep one or both legs raised when typing and my typing was bad enough before.

On the other hand I'm discouraged that the various Congressional committees dealing with the executive agencies and assassinations have set their goals so short, dealt with them irresponsible and accomplished so much less than was possible and I think necessary. In the other House there is a question of ethics with which I will not trouble you except to say that it was an unexpected and serious disappointment.

The executive-branch, especially intelligence, estimates of how far the Members would dare go was excellent and enabled a manipulation that I fear will result in a sanctification of what was previously unsanctified. What, for example, happened to the Church committee's investigation of CIA domestic activities? I wrote about some still unexposed two years ago, in a book I've not had time to edit. With the committee's record I'll now save this for court use. (The time for response to my FOIA/PA appeal expired a week ago and there has been no response. I have much they have not given me. Their problems are that they know I have what they haven't given me but haven't been able to figure out what; that it would expose an unexposed domestic operation, quite possibly one you sensed without proof more than a decade ago when I was unwilling to believe it and certainly another where I have adequate proofs; they don't dare give me what they have to have on me; they may feel that they have to stall this past the life of your committee; and they may prefer taking their chances in court.)

Because the political problems of the Members are very real I have pressed myself on none. I have however, taken what time was asked of me even when I couldn't walk, on the way to the hospital in Washington and while I was there. And since. If as I think one of the limitations is political fear, then your efforts are still more important because it can diminish this fear which in itself jeopardizes representative society.

One of the real opportunities missed was, I think, by the Church committee, the FBI's socalled disclosures about naughty Hoover. I am very interested in a close reading of the actual testimony which I hear is about to be printed or has been. What was done is one of the slickest con jobs. You will learn of it before too long because I was fortunate in finding a more than competent colleague who was a stranger. He has followed my proofs and initial leads, contacted those to whom I sent him, and what he is writing will appear soon. It will be syndicated, if not in Washington I'll get copies to you.

I don't know what your committee has printed. I've had this since October and before that I was overly occupied getting Post Mortem out, so I can't even keep up with one newspaper. I have the report on assassinations. I'd appreciate it if you can arrange for me to get a copy of anything prior to it, anything subsequent, and future volumes. If there is any around I'd also like the Clarence Kelley confirmation hearings and what I understand is not in it - if it is not secret - the customary biographical statement. My interest is in what should not be secret, when he was stationed where during his earlier FBI career.

For whatever it means to you, I think in yesterday's Post you came as close as one can hope to to the perfect balance. It, too, is a political necessity.

Again thanks. Our best to Ann and the boys.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg